



The CIAC Paddle

Helping You Navigate the IA Continuum

11th Edition, March 2013 - Supplement



Navy IA Sailor Top Focus Area #6 ***Army INDOC 101***

There are several key differences between the Army and Navy methods, roles, missions, and cultures. CIACs need to assist in managing the IA Sailor's expectations with regards to the Army culture.

Train & Equip, Boots-On-Ground

a) Army and Navy Culture

- The Army leans heavily on doctrine and established structure; whereas, the Navy tends to focus on critical thinking and adaptive problem-solving.

b) Rank structure is different

- The Army addresses enlisted members by rank only (Specialist, SGT, etc.) vice the Navy that includes rate and rank (YN1, IT2, etc.).
- The Army has a less restricted approach to rank and its Soldiers. Enlisted and officers eat and sleep in common areas. The Army has no "demarcation line" similar to the Navy between enlisted, senior enlisted and officers.
- The Army does not have a Chief's mess and their structure emphasizes First Sergeant and Sergeant Major.

c) Specialists versus support

- Sailors are individual specialists who come together to support a ship or squadron. While deployed, the ship's crew must adapt to any situation and solve the problem/issue. There is no other unit to fix it for them.
- The Army relies on other units to support and does not celebrate individual skills.

d) Weapons proficiency

- Every Soldier is a Rifleman first. The Army is very weapons-centric. Every Soldier, no matter what MOS, is expected to be able to engage the enemy with their assigned weapon at any time.
- Only a few Navy ratings and certain communities become proficient with their assigned weapon. During combat skills training, each IA Sailor is expected to become proficient with their assigned weapon, which can be a stressful event.

e) Army is big and physical

- The Army, as a land-based military force, utilizes their logistical support and mobility to support their Combat Arms Units (artillery, mechanized cavalry, etc.).
- The Navy, with traditional dispersal and separation of ships, tends to place value on decentralized execution and independence of command.

f) Logistics and gear

- Everyone in the Army is issued gear as if they as if they were a Rifleman (Combat Support). Even though, the Navy IA Sailors typically serve in Combat Service Support missions, they should expect to be issued the same gear as a "Rifleman."
See ***Focus Area #9 - Gear Issue*** for more information.

g) Questions: Email [USFF IA Support](#)